

REFERENCE TITLE: opposing federal hate crimes legislation

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2006

HM 2002

Introduced by
Representatives Pearce, Gorman, Gray C, Murphy, Senators Johnson: Burns,
Harper

A MEMORIAL

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO DEFEAT PENDING HATE CRIMES
LEGISLATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, two similar bills currently pending in Congress, S. 1145 and
4 H.R. 2662, would give federal assistance to states and local jurisdictions to
5 prosecute hate crimes. These bills, the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement
6 Act of 2005 and the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005,
7 respectively, would greatly expand the power of the federal government to
8 prosecute purported hate crimes committed anywhere in the country; and

9 Whereas, opponents remain concerned that such bills would violate the
10 right of free speech, as well as give the Department of Justice expanded
11 powers over local authorities to prosecute many types of violent crimes. In
12 addition, such legislation, if enacted into law, could punish clergy and
13 other religious speakers for reading Biblical passages or preaching their
14 Biblical views from the pulpit; and

15 Whereas, so-called "hate crimes" legislation such as this has always
16 been defeated in the past, for the very reason critics remain opposed to it
17 today. In recent sessions of Congress, such misguided legislation has come
18 increasingly close to passage, an event that would result in an unparalleled
19 impediment to free speech in our country.

20 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
21 Arizona, prays:

22 1. That the Congress of the United States take immediate action to
23 defeat current hate crimes legislation.

24 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
25 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
26 the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from
27 the State of Arizona.